

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SJR 112

February 15, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Proposes a new article to the Constitution of Tennessee authorizing citizens to propose laws by initiative petitions. Petitions must have signatures equal to five percent of the population who voted in latest gubernatorial election and be filed with the Secretary of State's office for signature verification at least six months before the election at which it is to be voted upon. Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to verify petition signatures within 60 days of receipt. A petition shall contain only one subject and contain the full text of the proposed law. Initiatives may only be placed on the ballot for an election held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday, in an even-numbered year. If a proposed law by initiative receives approval by a majority of the voters, then the proposed law shall be presented to the General Assembly for consideration. The General Assembly shall, within 90 days of convening, reject the proposed law, approve the proposed law, or take no action. Prohibits any law proposed by initiative that fails to receive approval from a majority of those voting from appearing on the ballot as an initiative again for at least four years, and any rejected by the General Assembly from appearing on the ballot as an initiative for at least two years.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$9,100/One-Time
\$300/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- The SOS will publish the proposed amendment.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures for publishing costs is estimated to be \$9,100 based on the cost of recent publications incurred by the SOS.
- Based on information from the SOS, the state coordinator of elections will be required to hire at least one temporary intern when a petition was filed with the office in order to expedite signature verification and meet the required 60-day deadline. Further, one intern will be paid \$10 an hour, work a 7 1/2-hour workday, and work approximately 20 days relative to any petition filing.
- The increase in state expenditures relative to each petition filing is estimated to be \$1,500 [(\$10 x 7.5) x 20].
- An average of one petition filed every five years.
- A recurring appropriation of \$300 per year (\$1,500 cost per petition filed / one petition filed every 5 years) would be required to effectuate the provisions of this resolution.
- Any increase in state expenditures to prepare a copy of this resolution is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/rnc